

The NIH Record

'Mother of All Trials'

Healy Announces Vanguard Women's Health Study Centers

By Rich McManus

Sixteen university medical programs were unveiled Mar. 30 as launch sites for the 15-year, \$625 million NIH Women's Health Initiative, a three-pronged investigation into the most common causes of death and disability in women and also the largest clinical trial ever attempted in the United States.

"Big problems call for big solutions, and that's exactly what the Women's Health Initiative is," said NIH director Dr. Bernadine Healy, who divulged 2 years ago upon assuming NIH leadership that such a trial would take place. "More than 160,000 women, ages 50 to 79, will take part in the Women's Health Initiative. They will participate in clinical studies that will enable us to understand more fully the causes and develop preventive therapies for heart disease, cancer, depression and osteoporosis, the major causes of death and disability in women of all races."

The study's three arms—a clinical trial, observational study and community trial (recruits can join two or three)—are designed to prevent cardiovascular disease, cancer (especially of the breast and colon), and osteoporosis among women, mainly through recommendations about diet, hormone replacement therapy, and supplements of calcium and vitamin D.

The study will also test approaches for motivating older women to adopt such healthy

Physicians Association Seeks Parity with Private Sector

By Rich McManus

Physicians at NIH who worry about being compensated for their skills as generously as their counterparts in academia or the private sector have a friend on campus with whom they might not yet be familiar.

His name is Charles Sneiderman, M.D., Ph.D., an intramural researcher working in NLM's Educational Technology Branch. Specializing in computerized information retrieval for health professionals, he is also interested in reaping the same benefits inside the federal government as his peers command outside.

Does this make him one of a kind on a campus that employs about 2,000 federal

(See **PARITY**, Page 2)

Bond Campaign Kick-Off, Apr. 27

"Take Stock in America" is the theme of this year's NIH Savings Bonds campaign, which kicks off on Tuesday, Apr. 27 at 11:45 a.m. on the patio of Bldg. 31A, featuring the Richard Montgomery High School jazz ensemble and free raffle. All employees are invited.



NIH director Dr. Bernadine Healy takes questions from reporters at the press conference announcing the 16 vanguard centers in the Women's Health Initiative. With her is Dr. William Harlan, NIH associate director for disease prevention, who is a codirector of the WHI.

Photos: Ernie Branson

behaviors as good diet, smoking cessation, exercise, and regular checkups with a physician.

"For far too long research on women's health has been neglected," said Healy. "Women were often excluded from research studies because of concerns about possible pregnancy. Also, many scientists feared that hormonal differences could skew test results. As a result men were the

normative standard for medical research and treatment. The corollary for this, of course, is that men's hormones set the standard for us all."

Some 3,500 participants will be enrolled at each of the 16 centers (see box), which will begin recruitment next September; four of the

(See **WOMEN'S HEALTH**, Page 6)

'Discover a New World'

One Month, One Year Not Enough for Women's History

By Carla Garnett

One year was not nearly enough. That's how the keynote speaker began her address during "Discover a New World," NIH's recent program celebrating Women's History Month. Even though the Year of the Woman theoretically should have ended midnight Dec. 31, 1992, NIGMS director Dr. Ruth Kirschstein said women need a lot more time.

"Slogans can mask real issues," she said. "They can make it seem as though women's needs are being met, as though women's rights are being addressed when we know full well that there is still a long way to go."

What we really need, Kirschstein said, quoting author Susan Faludi, is "many more years of humanity."

Cosponsored by the Federal Women's Program of NIH's Office of Equal Opportunity and the NIH advisory committee for women, the women's history observance also featured readings by poet Meikil Berry and the music of the Heart of Maryland Chorus, part of Sweet Adelines International, the largest women's singing organization in the world (see sidebar).

NIH director Dr. Bernadine Healy, who made history in 1991 when she became the first woman to lead the National Institutes of Health, set the tone for the program.

"This new world of women's history introduces us to individuals, events, communities and cultures that traditional approaches to

(See **WOMEN'S HISTORY**, Page 4)



Poet Meikil Berry reads from her work at the observance of Women's History Month.

PARITY

(Continued from Page 1)

physicians—roughly half of whom are civil servants and the rest PHS medical officers? Hardly. But unlike many of his NIH peers, he has done something to address his career concerns.

Feeling somewhat isolated at NIH in the early eighties, Sneiderman, who came to the campus in October 1979, sought some sort of professional camaraderie, some group of fellow physicians with whom he could share employment concerns. Around that time, he became aware of a nonunion lobbying group called the Federal Physicians Association. An HHS-approved organization, the FPA acts as an advocate for the interests of federal physicians. Its stated goals are to improve the health of those served by federal doctors, improve the practice of medicine in the federal government, and improve working conditions and benefits for federal docs.

Sneiderman joined FPA and now serves as its president. He explains its usefulness this way: "There are a number of employment and professional development issues that are unique to medical officers and that are unlike [those facing] other professional groups employed by the government," he begins. "Chief among them are that the responsibilities and duties of a federal physician often don't fit well into the traditional 8:30 to 5, Monday to Friday schedule. When we're on call or working overtime, for example, I believe the regulations say that overtime pay can't exceed the GS-9 level."

Particularly irksome to him is that "the average base pay of federal medical officers is approximately half that of the income of nonfederal physicians." That weakness helps account for "government's inability to recruit and retain the best and brightest of our profession. Economic issues are driving people out."

According to FPA executive director Dennis Boyd, the average civil service salaried physician earns less than \$100,000 per year, which contrasts with the estimated \$135,000 annual earnings of a salaried physician outside of federal service.

Sneiderman allows that this situation is by no means unique to NIH, but extends to all federal agencies that employ M.D.s. FPA's response is a pay reform proposal known as Title 38 pay, which is how Veterans Administration physicians are compensated. "Title 38 allows agencies a much higher pay ceiling—around \$200,000 per year," he said, adding that pay gains were won thanks to a concerted lobbying effort on the part of VA docs. Pay for NIH civil service physicians is currently governed by an authority known as Title 5.

Because the VA needs high-priced professionals in such areas as radiology and surgery, it amended its pay scale to recruit these specialists, explained Sneiderman.



Dr. Charles Sneiderman

"Parity," says Sneiderman, summing up his association's chief interest. "The same pay for the same work. That's what FPA wants."

Since 1979, federal physicians have reaped the benefit of a congressionally mandated Physicians Comparability Allowance (PCA). This emolument, which authorizes pay increases of up to \$20,000 per year, has been extended by Congress four times—in 1982, 1985, 1987 and 1990. The current PCA extension is scheduled to expire in September 1993. Sneiderman is hoping that either PCA is extended again or Title 38 pay is enacted by that time. "Otherwise it's going to be 'Last M.D. out, turn out the lights,'" he predicted.

Other issues of concern to FPA include the fact that the PCA, while a nice bonus, is not figured into a federal doctor's retirement annuity. "That's a significant chunk to give up, almost 20 percent of your pay in some cases," Sneiderman observed.

It strikes him as unfair, too, that federal physicians are required to maintain and pay for their state medical licenses, which require at least 50 hours of CME (continuing medical education) credit, yet many agencies are unwilling to pay for such training or grant leave so that doctors may obtain it. "Doctors have to scramble for CME credits on their own time."

Sneiderman is quick to add that the benefits sought by FPA—including creation of the SBRS (Senior Biomedical Research Service, which enhances scientists' pay considerably)—are almost precisely the same sought by NIH authorities in Bldg. 1, only FPA has the freedom to lobby openly for them.

"We're not attempting to oppose the agencies," he cautions, "but rather to work with them. There's nothing I want that Bldg. 1 doesn't want also."

Sneiderman says he plans to work closely with another physicians' advocacy group—PPAC—which stands for physicians professional advisory committee. PPAC represents all PHS physicians and reports to the surgeon general of the United States; NLM's Dr. Daniel Masys,

director of the Lister Hill Center, is chair of that group.

Sneiderman thinks FPA can gain strength in numbers. "I suspect that many NIH'ers would join if they knew we existed," he predicted. FPA's Boyd says membership stands now at 350.

Regarding his own career, Sneiderman says he "likes working at NIH" and wants to stay as long as it is reasonable to do so. "There are a lot of very bright, dedicated people working here, and I'm not just talking about the docs. I hope I can afford to make a career as a research medical officer at NIH."

For more information about FPA, call Sneiderman, 66280. □

Fauci To Address Postdocs

The clinical associate committee has invited NIAID director Dr. Anthony Fauci to discuss "Biomedical Sciences as Viewed by the American Public through the Eyes of the Media." Fauci is recognized internationally for his scientific talents and mentorship abilities, as well as for his administrative and policy skills. All postdoctoral fellows, and other interested members of the NIH staff, are invited to hear him share his media insights.

The program will be Apr. 21 at 5:30 p.m. in Bldg. 10, Masur Auditorium. A reception will be held immediately after the talk. For more information, call Cynthia Parker, 21914. □

The NIH Record

Published biweekly at Bethesda, Md., by the Editorial Operations Branch, Division of Public Information, for the information of employees of the National Institutes of Health, Department of Health and Human Services, and circulated to nonemployees by subscription only through the Government Printing Office. The content is reprintable without permission. Pictures may be available on request. Use of funds for printing this periodical has been approved by the director of the Office of Management and Budget through September 30, 1993.

NIH Record Office
Bldg. 31, Room 2B-03
Phone 62125
Fax 21485

Editor
Richard McManus

Assistant Editor
Anne Barber

Associate Editor
Carla Garnett

Editorial Assistant
Marilyn Berman

Correspondents:

CC, Sarah Byars
DCRT, Anne P. Enright
DRG, Andrea Taylor
FIC, Jim Bryant
NCI, Patricia A. Newman
NCHGR, Leslie Fink
NCNR, Marianne Duffy
NCRR, Kathleen Canavan
NEI, Linda Huss
NHLBI, Louise Williams
NIA, Vicky Cahan
NIAAA, Ann M. Bradley
NIAID, James Hadley
NIAMS, Amy Iadarola
NICHD, Carol Florance
NIDA, Karen Rogich
NIDCD, Gail Blatt
NIDDK, Eileen Corrigan
NIDR, Mary Daum
NIEHS, Hugh J. Lee
NIGMS, Wanda Warddell
NIMH, Marilyn Weeks
NINDS, Carol Rowan
NLM, Roger L. Gilkeson

The NIH Record reserves the right to make corrections, changes, or deletions in submitted copy in conformity with the policies of the paper and HHS.

NINDS Guest Lecturer

Solomon Snyder Describes Pioneering Work with Nitric Oxide

For decades, scientists thought they knew what neurotransmitters were. According to standard doctrine, neurotransmitters are the handful of organic chemicals that nerve cells use to carry signals from one cell to another. Then scientists discovered that short bits of protein called peptides could do the same thing. And now, strangest of all, they've discovered that brain cells can communicate using gases.

One of the primary explorers in the area of gaseous neurotransmitters has been NIH alumnus Dr. Solomon Snyder, director of the department of neuroscience, and professor of neuroscience, pharmacology, and psychiatry at Johns Hopkins University. As this year's distinguished guest lecturer for the annual NINDS Research Poster Day held recently (see box), Snyder spoke to an overflowing Masur Auditorium crowd about the discovery of gaseous neurotransmitters and the research that may lead to powerful new drugs for stroke, Alzheimer's disease and other neurological disorders.

In the mid-1980's, scientists discovered that nitric oxide, known by the chemical abbreviation NO, was produced by cells in the blood vessels to make vessel walls dilate. Snyder learned about this and thought, "Something this beautiful must work in the brain."

Snyder and a graduate student then isolated the enzyme that produces NO and found that the gas is indeed manufactured by brain cells. Not all brain cells make NO—only a select few do so. But every cell in the cortex—the thin rind of "gray matter" where so much of the brain's intellectual processing takes place—has a connection to one of these NO cells, Snyder found.

In addition, Snyder found that these NO cells have an interesting distribution. They are actually cells that have long been known to be resistant to damage from stroke, trauma, and degenerative neurological disorders. "As a result of stroke, Alzheimer's disease or Huntington's disease, 95 percent of the nerve cells in some parts of the brain can be dead, but none of the NO cells in these areas will be touched," Snyder said.

After stroke or head trauma much of the damage to brain cells occurs because dying cells release substances that kill otherwise healthy cells. Snyder has found that the NO cells are primary suspects in the cell deaths. Although NO probably has a beneficial function during normal brain activity, during stroke or trauma the gas disrupts and destroys cells.

In laboratory experiments, Snyder has found that substances that block the formation of NO protect neurons better than many of the experimental stroke drugs that pharmaceutical companies are now testing. He hopes that this information may lead to a new breed of neuroprotective drugs that work by blocking



Dr. Solomon Snyder

the synthesis or accumulation of NO in the brain.

Snyder noted that he and other scientists have found that NO is not the only gas that acts as a neurotransmitter. Carbon monoxide (CO), another gas that is dangerous in high concentrations, also seems to affect signal transmission in nerve cells.

Snyder's research on gaseous neural messengers is only the latest high point in a distinguished scientific career. In the 1960's, Snyder came to NIH to work in the laboratory of Dr. Julius Axelrod, who would later win a Nobel prize in physiology or medicine. Snyder himself has won numerous awards for his work, including the Lasker Award for Basic Biomedical Research. He has published more than 700 scientific papers during his 30 years of scientific research.

Snyder has made neurotransmitters and their receptors the focus of his research for most of these years. He is perhaps best known for pioneering the use of radioactive tags to isolate neurotransmitter receptors and using this technique in isolating and identifying the opiate receptor.

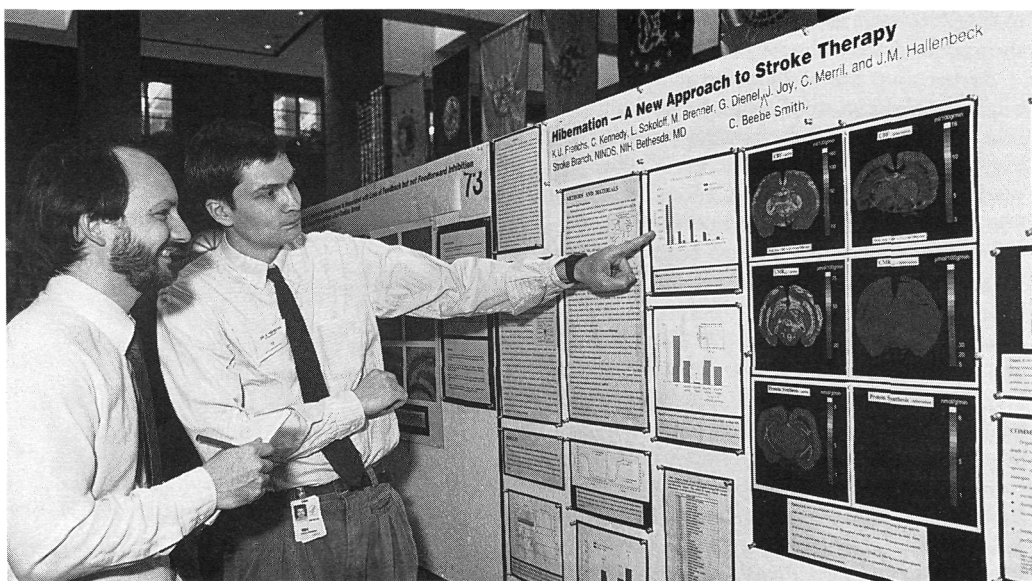
Blacks with Diabetes Sought

Researchers at NIDDK seek 18 to 65-year-old noninsulin-dependent diabetic volunteers for a study on how the kidney disease of diabetes runs in Black American families. Volunteers will be paid to fill out a questionnaire, give medical history, and undergo a physical exam and laboratory tests. Contact Dr. Gail Moreschi, 47553. □

Poster Day Marks Brain Decade

NINDS recently held its third annual Research Poster Day, part of the Decade of the Brain celebration. Intramural scientists displayed more than 120 scientific posters, highlighting research in the basic and clinical neurological sciences. Poster day is a kind of small-scale scientific conference promoting scientific communication between NINDS investigators and other NIH scientists.

In the photo below, NINDS scientist Kai Frerichs (r) explains a research project to NINDS science writer Chris Vaughan. Frerichs and other investigators under the direction of Dr. John Hallenbeck are studying hibernation in hopes of finding new therapies for stroke. Frerichs explains that during stroke, most of the damage to the brain isn't a direct result of the stroke itself. "For hours after a stroke, there is a riot of activity in the brain," he said. Like most riots, this activity can cause more damage than the initial incident. Some scientists have tried to halt the overreaction of brain cells after stroke by quieting the brain, either through induced coma or brain cooling, but these approaches have their own potentially injurious side effects. The investigators hope that hibernation, in which cell metabolism slows almost to a halt without any detrimental side effects, might provide insight to new treatments to stop post-stroke damage to the brain.



WOMEN'S HISTORY

(Continued from Page 1)

history have often ignored, forgotten or misrepresented," she said, in opening remarks. "The nation's past is seen in a new way. The entire historical picture gains a depth and a richness. We find that we, too, can and do make history everyday...When we discover women's history, we discover ourselves."

In her poem "Bridging the Gap," Berry, a Columbia, Md., resident whose work highlights the problems of minorities, women and the victims of abuse, also emphasized self-discovery: "Look into her eyes," she intoned. "Can't you see yourself...You and me talking about our differences gets old—real fast."

Diane Armstrong, OEO director, agreed: "Women's history encourages us to discover the connections between the past and the present and to see ourselves on the continuum of history."

Perhaps that kind of thinking led to choosing one of NIH's own to deliver the keynote speech. Kirschstein's place on NIH's historical continuum spans three decades. The first woman to serve as director of an NIH institute (NIGMS, since 1974), she was tapped in 1990 to take on an additional task—that of launching NIH's Office of Research on Women's Health, which she organized and directed during its infancy.

Before speaking, Kirschstein was introduced by Armstrong as a "yes person," who when approached for battle, faithfully responds, "Yes,



Felicia Brice (l), president of NIH's advisory committee for women, and Lucretia Coffey, NIH Federal Women's Program manager (r), presented a framed poster to NIGMS director Dr. Ruth Kirschstein, who recently gave the keynote address at "Discover a New World: Women's History."

I can. Yes, I will." In her speech, she again answered the call and again faced a challenge head on.

"The number of women who are leaders in medicine and research is woefully small," she said. "There is every reason to believe that if more women were doing biomedical research, we would not now be trying to rectify years of neglect regarding women's health issues."

More than 45 percent of the nation's work force is female, Kirschstein continued, and the

most rapid shift in work force participation has occurred among women with growing children. Currently, 67 percent of mothers with school-age children and 58 percent of mothers with preschool children are now employed.

"[But] there are still far too few women in scientific careers," she said. Women receive half of the bachelor's degrees in biology and between 35 percent and 40 percent of graduate students in biological sciences are women, but faculty and administration rosters describe a

'Heart of Maryland' in Tune at NIH's Women's History Observance

Just before the keynote address at NIH's women's history observance, about 50 women in glittering evening dress stood poised on the risers onstage at Masur Auditorium. They were an ensemble from the Heart of Maryland Chorus of Sweet Adelines International (SAI), the program's musical entertainment. Flyers at the door said they were going to sing four-part harmony, *a capella*—barber shop style. Barber shop style?

"Barber shop harmony is one of the three original American musical art forms (the others being jazz and the cowboy ballad)," said bass Cele Search, a 10-year member who works in NCI's Division of Cancer Treatment. She is one of seven NIH'ers in the group whose four singing parts range from tenor (the highest) down to lead, baritone, and bass (the lowest).

Founded in Oklahoma in 1947 by the wife of a member of a male barber shop quartet, SAI, Heart of Maryland's parent, is a non-profit music education organization that boasts a membership of more than 30,000 women in 660 chapters in 10 countries. Barber shop-style singing is even springing up in high school. SAI, through its Young Women in Harmony Program, provides music



The seven NIH'ers in the Heart of Maryland Chorus—shown with a few HMC officers—are (rear, from l) HMC manager Diane Kent, HMC president Jan Provost, Bronna Cohen, Dr. Beth Malow, HMC president-elect Sarah Nainan-Newhard and Olga Muratova; (front, from l) Sally Houseman, Anne Dobbs, HMC director Carolyn Sexton, Claudia Palumbo and Cele Search.

and educational materials to music teachers throughout the United States.

Since its birth, HMC has defined the word harmony—and not just in song. Officially chartered in 1987 with the blending of three smaller choruses, the HMC has grown into a 99-member award-winning chorus.

Why do engineers, students, homemakers, educators, financial planners, scientists, etc.,

grab their music and dancing shoes and head for rehearsal every Tuesday night?

"We love it," says Search. "It's addictive." But music isn't the only draw.

"One of the wonderful things about the chorus is that as soon as you join," said lead Anne Dobbs, an HMC chorister since 1984 who works in NIH's Division of Support Services, "you immediately have all these

different picture: despite the improved education statistics, the number of women in productive research careers or tenured positions declines deeply.

Kirschstein said that among reasons for the decline, many are related to childbirth, childcare and household responsibilities that have been traditionally and continue to be managed by the women in the family.

"Women should not have to choose," she said, reiterating what many prominent women scientists around the world have been saying about the burden of balancing career and home.

"The world of science is a challenging one," Kirschstein said, "at the same time intriguing and rewarding. The investment of time is considerable and the commitment of self is enormous. But the freedom to examine, to attempt to understand some facet of science...is perhaps the most indescribable of satisfactions."

The world cannot afford to forfeit one half of its creative, intellectual energy, she said, encouraging women scientists to mentor one another and to stand firm. Her message was clear: Professionally and personally, women must take responsibility for their own lives—and the lives of others. "Beyond any private or personal reward," Kirschstein concluded, "research in science—particularly in the health sciences—offers more: To make even the most minute discovery, to see clearly even one small part of the immense biomedical puzzle can have implications of tremendous importance in the understanding of diseases that affect thousands." □

friends. We're a supportive, close-knit group." The members have a wide range of musical backgrounds.

Dr. Beth Malow, an NINDS clinical associate and HMC lead singer since February, is one of the group's newest recruits. "I saw the ad for the chorus in a Bethesda ice cream store and held on to the flyer for about 6 months before I had time to go to a rehearsal. I'm glad I joined."

HMC performs throughout the metropolitan area and has an annual show in the fall. The chorus rehearses every Tuesday evening in the Rockville area and is currently tuning up for its annual regional competition where approximately 30 Sweet Adelines choruses from Maryland, Delaware, Pennsylvania and New Jersey will vie for the chance to represent their locality in an international contest in Reno, Nev. Last year the Heart of Maryland finished second in the regionals; the group's sights are trained to go all the way in 1993.

Ever recruiting, the chorus is fond of proclaiming, "If you can carry a tune and have an ear for harmony, HMC will turn you into a singer." For more information on the Heart of Maryland Chorus or to join, call manager Diane Kent, (301) 897-8209.

OTT Names McGarey New Deputy Director

The Office of Technology Transfer (OTT) has named Barbara M. McGarey as its new deputy director. McGarey, who has worked in the federal government for 12 years, most recently served within the Public Health Division of the Office of the General Counsel, where she provided legal advice to the former ADAMHA. At OGC, her duties included review of CRADAs and complex licensing cases.

OTT manages the biomedical technology portfolio of the Public Health Service by facilitating and coordinating technology transfer activities for the NIH, FDA, and CDC. Through OTT, NIH obtains patent protection for biomedical technologies, and licenses these technologies to private companies for commercial development. OTT also provides centralized review of NIH cooperative research and development agreements (CRADAs).

Increasing the potential public health benefits derived from NIH research through public/private collaboration and transferring technologies for commercialization is being given increased emphasis at NIH. For example, the number of employee invention reports (EIRs) filed in 1992 increased nearly 400 percent over the number filed in 1986. Similarly, 47 new CRADAs were initiated in 1992, compared with 8 in 1987, the first year following enactment of the Federal Technology Transfer Act of 1986. The trend for patents is rising as well, with 73 issued in 1992 compared with 26 in 1986. Perhaps most telling is the number of licenses negotiated and the emphasis on exclusive licenses only where it is necessary and appropriate. In 1993, only 6 out of 76 licenses negotiated were exclusive, compared with 15 out of 39 in 1986.

In assuming her position, McGarey plans to focus on improving the basic patent and licensing services provided to the ICDs by OTT. She also believes there is a critical need for policy development in the area of technology transfer. Citing her experience with NIMH scientists during her tenure in the ADAMHA legal office, she believes that scientists often have questions about conflict of interest and the scope of permissible activities when engaging in technology transfer. She believes many of these questions could be answered through an updated NIH policy addressing conflict of interest. To date, however, OTT has had its hands full simply delivering basic services.

"OTT has functioned like a start-up company over the past few years, and it has been tremendously successful at building a program," said McGarey. "Now we have to concentrate on becoming a more service-oriented organization, because after all, we are providing a service and the ICDs are our primary customers. As we refine the mission and goals of OTT, we must keep customer needs in mind." She stated that in the coming year her priorities as deputy would be to provide hands-on management of



Barbara McGarey

the office in conjunction with the director, including the development and implementation of uniform policies and procedures for many of the activities at OTT. OTT is implementing a "total quality management" approach to program development. "As in any start-up company," she remarked, "many of the procedures currently in place at OTT were developed on an ad hoc basis to address an immediate need. They have never been systematically reviewed, and the OTT staff is anxious to begin looking at those processes with an eye toward refinement and improvement."

OTT has grown exponentially since 1988, when its director, Reid Adler, was recruited from a private patent law practice to develop a technology transfer program. "Four years ago, we were struggling to manage NIH's portfolio with only 3 people," Adler said. "Today we have almost 40 on staff and things are starting to really mesh together. We still have not reached the point where we can provide the broad array of patent and licensing services necessary for a professional technology transfer program." He added, "Barbara will play a very important role" in moving the program along to its next stage of development.

With adequate staff and improved procedures and services, McGarey predicts great success for OTT. "We have a tremendous amount of talent in this office. We have strong legal, scientific, and business expertise. Our goal is to continually improve our programs and procedures until our technology management services are as pre-eminent as the biomedical research portfolio we manage." □

High Cholesterol Vols Needed

The Cardiology Branch, NHLBI, seeks volunteers with cholesterol greater than 275 mg for outpatient study. Participants should have no other medical problems. Volunteers will be paid. Call Cressie Kilcoyne, 68739. □

WOMEN'S HEALTH

(Continued from Page 1)

centers require more than 60 percent of their enrollees to be minorities—African Americans, Hispanics, and Native Americans. Twenty percent of the study's entire membership will be from minority populations, assured Dr. William R. Harlan, codirector of WHI and associate director of NIH's Office of Disease Prevention. "We want to be sure that the information gleaned from this study is relevant to all women in this country," he said.

The 16 winners in the site-selection process were judged best of some 61 proposals, said Harlan. "We had the luxury of picking the best of the best," he commented. "The competition was brisk and selection of the best from many outstanding proposals ensures that the program will begin with the best available investigators and institutions."

In another 2 or 3 months, NIH will solicit bids for the final 29 centers in the full WHI study; non-winners on the first round are



Dr. Carrie Hunter explains aspects of WHI.

welcome to reapply, Harlan said. Winners in that competition will be announced in mid-1994.

Healy said the observational study should start yielding practical results for the nation's women within 4 or 5 years.

"This is clearly the mother of all trials," she quipped.

Some 57,000 women will participate in the clinical trial arm, said Dr. Carrie Hunter, special assistant to the director of NIH's Office of Research on Women's Health. These women will test hormone replacement therapy, low-fat diets, and calcium/vitamin D supplements to combat such ills as coronary heart disease, breast and colorectal cancer, and osteoporosis.

"We would like to start the next century with guidelines based on the strongest scientific data and recommendations available," she said.

About 100,000 postmenopausal women will enroll in the observational or epidemiologic portion of the study, and will be followed for 9 years, Hunter continued. "Extensive interviews, baseline physicals, and laboratory examinations will be performed...data will be



Harlan assures 20 percent minority recruitment.

collected on current diets, environmental exposures, drug exposures such as hormone replacement therapy and oral contraceptive use. Importantly, psychosocial issues will also be assessed."

Useful information from this part of the study is expected within the first few years, she added.

The community trial portion of the study will try to reach women, especially those traditionally underserved by physicians, on a grass-roots

The 16 Vanguard Centers Are...

Bowman Gray School of Medicine
Winston-Salem, N.C.
Brigham and Women's Hospital
Boston, Mass.
Emory University School of Medicine
Atlanta, Ga.♦
Fred Hutchinson Cancer Research Center
Seattle, Wash.★
Memorial Hospital of Rhode Island
Pawtucket, R.I.
Northwestern University Medical School
Chicago, Ill.
State University of New York
Buffalo, N.Y.
University of Alabama
Birmingham, Ala.♦
University of Arizona
Tucson, Ariz.♦
University of California
Davis, Calif.
University of California
San Diego, Calif.♦
University of Iowa
Iowa City, Ia.
University of Medicine and Dentistry
of New Jersey
Newark, N.J.
University of Minnesota
Minneapolis, Minn.
University of Pittsburgh
Pittsburgh, Pa.
University of Tennessee
Memphis, Tenn.

♦ denotes primarily minority recruitment
★ also coordinating center for whole WHI

level to encourage them to adopt the health-promoting behaviors outlined in the HHS secretary's "Healthy People 2000" plan.

Asked by CNN's David French why such a study is occurring now, Healy responded, "I've been aware of a knowledge gap [between what science knows about men and women] for 20 years...The awakening to the need for more knowledge about women's health is due to a penetration of facts to the public at large. Also, there are more women in medicine now, and more in leadership positions who can do something about [the gap]."

Healy also credited the "cooperation of the male population who, when they see the facts, say, 'Oh golly, we need to do something about it.'"

The NIH director called the WHI launch "a transforming moment" and "the right thing to do" given the lack of knowledge about women's health. "We will never have to go back to this era of not knowing enough. This change is clearly permanent and cultural." □

Gender Difference Talks Continue

The Women's Health Seminar Series, sponsored by the Office of Research on Women's Health in collaboration with the advisory committee on women's health issues and the health and behavior coordinating committee, continues its 4-part series on gender differences in contemporary health issues with "Gender Differences in Stress: Immunologic Aspects," to be held Tuesday, Apr. 20 from 2 to 4 p.m. in Lipsett Amphitheater, Bldg. 10.

The three presentations at this seminar will be: Dr. Christopher L. Coe of the University of Wisconsin on "The Relevance of Gender to Immune Resilience and Vulnerability"; Dr. Janice K. Kiecolt-Glaser of Ohio State University on "Hostile Behavior During Marital Conflict Alters Hormones and Immune Function"; and Dr. Gail Ironson of the University of Miami on "The Impact of Hurricane Andrew on Stress, Cognitive Difficulties, and Immune Abnormalities in CFS."

A question-and-answer session will follow the three presentations. Attendance is open to the NIH community and the public. For more information call Joyce Rudick, 21770. □

Contraceptive Conference Planned

NICHD will host a conference "Preventing Unwanted Pregnancies: The Role of Hormonal Contraceptives," on Apr. 27-28 at the Hyatt Regency in Bethesda. Speakers include former NICHD clinical director Dr. Lynn Loriaux, and NICHD's Drs. Nancy Alexander and Lynette Nieman. Sponsored with the Association of Reproductive Health Professionals, the meeting will provide an overview of all aspects of hormonal contraception, including products being developed for men. For more information call 61101; to register call (908) 832-2247. □

Ninth Annual PEF Auction Set

All employees are invited to attend the ninth annual auction to benefit the Patient Emergency Fund on Apr. 30 from 11 a.m. to 2 p.m. in the Visitor Information Center, Bldg. 10.

Donated so far to the auction are: box seats to a production of *Phantom of the Opera* at the Kennedy Center and dinner for two at the Rooftop Terrace, a weekend for two in New York at the Doral Hotel including a show, Redskins tickets, box seats to the Orioles, a weekend stay at the Princess Royale in Ocean City, and more.

A winning \$500 cash raffle ticket will be drawn immediately after the live auction. Raffle tickets will be sold the week of the auction outside Bldg. 10 and 31 cafeterias.

Donations are currently being collected for the auction. Departments and offices are encouraged to make a group donation. In past auctions creative employees have donated tickets to the Kennedy Center, "lovers only" tickets to Wolf Trap with a bottle of wine, and an Elizabeth Arden makeover. So join the fun and help the patients too. For more information, contact Ruth Sragner at R&W, 66061. □



Dr. Bernadette Tyree has joined the NCRR staff as a scientific review administrator in the Office of Review. She first came to NIH in 1981 as a staff fellow in NIDR, and returned as a grants associate in 1991 after working as a staff investigator at Howard University Cancer Center and as a biochemist at the Naval Medical Research Institute. She earned her Ph.D. in biochemistry from the Illinois Institute of Technology.

Kite Fling To Be Held Apr. 17

A spring kite fling sponsored by the Bethesda Urban District will be held on Saturday, Apr. 17, from 1 to 3 p.m. on the front lawn of the National Naval Medical Center (on Rockville Pike, across from NIH). Bring your zaniest kite. The first 100 kids to arrive will be able to make their own kites free with the Maryland Kite Society. Free hot air balloon rides, stunt kite demonstrations, and a toddler play area are also featured. Rain date is Sunday, Apr. 18. For more information, call 652-8798. □

Possible Additional Role of HIV Is Discovered in Mouse Models

By Mary Daum

There is new evidence that the human immunodeficiency virus can cause disease independently of its ability to suppress the immune system, say a team of NIH scientists.

They report that HIV itself, not an opportunistic infection, caused scaling skin conditions to develop in mice carrying the genes for HIV. Although the HIV genes were active in the mice, they did not compromise the animals' immunity, the researchers found. This led them to conclude that the HIV itself caused the skin disease.

"Our findings support a growing body of evidence that HIV can cause disease without affecting the immune system," said lead author Dr. Jeffrey Kopp of NIDR. He and colleagues described their study in the March issue of *AIDS Research and Human Retroviruses*.

Developing animal models of HIV infection has been difficult, since most animals, including mice, cannot be infected by the virus. To bypass this problem, scientists have developed HIV-transgenic mice, which carry genes for HIV as well as their own genetic material.

NIDR scientists created the transgenic mice by injecting HIV genes into mouse eggs and then implanting the eggs into female mice. The resulting litters contained both normal and transgenic animals.

Institute scientists had created mice that carried a complete copy of HIV genetic material in 1988. Those mice, however, became sick and died too soon after birth to study in depth. In the present study, the scientists used an incomplete copy of HIV, which allowed the animals to live longer.

Some of the transgenic animals developed scaling, wart-like tumors on their necks and backs. Other transgenic mice developed thickened, crusting skin lesions that covered most of their bodies, resembling psoriasis in humans. No skin lesions developed in their normal, nontransgenic littermates.

Studies of tissue taken from the wart-like skin tumors showed that they were a type of noncancerous tumor called papilloma. Although the papillomavirus can cause these skin lesions, laboratory tests showed no sign of that virus in the animals.

Tissue samples taken from the sick mice throughout the study revealed the presence of a protein-producing molecule made by the HIV genetic material. Evidence of HIV protein production proved that the viral genes were "turned on," or active, said Kopp.

The scientists found no evidence, however, of compromised immunity in the mice: no increase in their white blood cell count and no signs of common infections. The fact that HIV genes were active but the animals' immune systems were not suppressed confirms that the

virus itself was causing the skin lesions, Kopp explained.

Further proof of HIV gene involvement came from a test in which the scientists exposed the transgenic animals to ultraviolet light. The light increased HIV genetic activity causing papillomas to develop on formerly healthy skin.

"Our findings support a growing body of evidence that HIV can cause disease without affecting the immune system."

Papilloma formation in response to increased HIV genetic activity proved the genes were responsible for the skin condition, the scientists said. No lesions appeared on normal mice exposed to the UV light.

The transgenic mice used in this study were developed at NIDR by Dr. Peter Dickie, who is now with NIAID.

Collaborating on the study with Kopp were Charles Wohlenberg, Drs. Nickolas Dorfman, Joseph Bryant, Abner Notkins, and Paul Klotman, all of NIDR; Dr. Stephen Katz of NCI; and Dr. James Rooney, formerly with NIDR and now with Burroughs Wellcome. □

Extramural Orientation Course Set

The Extramural Staff Training Office (ESTO) will be presenting an NIH orientation course entitled "Fundamentals of NIH Extramural Activities" on June 17-18. It will be held in Bldg. 38A, Lister Hill Auditorium, starting at 8 a.m. on June 17 and concluding at 5 p.m. on June 18.

The course will include an overview of the types of extramural award mechanisms, the grant application referral and review processes, program administration, and the fiscal management of grants. Participants will be limited to about 140 people.

Course applicants (including PHS commissioned officers) are to submit an HHS-350 form (Training, Nomination and Authorization) through appropriate ICD channels to ESTO (Bldg. 31, Rm. 5B35). In item 10, list your office address; item 14—"no cost"; item 18—send vendor's copy to: ESTO, Bldg. 31, Rm. 5B35; item 20 A—"8", B—"8", C—"1", D—"N/A"; be specific in items 16 and 17 and indicate how long you have been in the NIH extramural area; item 21—"N/A"; and item 22—"9998." All other instructions are on the back of the HHS-350.

To be considered applications must be received in ESTO by May 3. Each applicant will be informed of the decision concerning his/her application. For more information, call Susan O'Brien, 61736. □

The NIH Life Sciences Education Connection

Scientists have a unique role to play in the reform of American precollege science education at all levels—elementary, middle, junior high, and high school. That is the premise for “Scientists and the Schools: Partnerships and Possibilities,” a workshop for scientists interested in exploring opportunities for volunteer work in elementary and secondary school science education. The workshop, sponsored by NIH’s Office of Science Education Policy, in cooperation with the Commission on Life Sciences/National Research Council, will be held Apr. 28 in celebration of Maryland Science Week (Apr. 25-May 1) and National Science and Technology Week (Apr. 25-May 1).

Dr. Bruce Alberts, American Cancer Society research professor of biochemistry, University of California, San Francisco, and president-elect, National Academy of Sciences, will be the keynote speaker at the workshop. Well-known among biologists for his work in molecular, cellular, and developmental biology, Alberts also has been playing a highly visible role in national science education reform efforts. His relentless commitment to bringing science as a process of inquiry and a way of knowing into the San Francisco schools led to the establishment of a very successful collaboration among scientists at the University of California, San Francisco, and teachers and administrators from the San Francisco Unified School District. This collaboration, the San Francisco Science Education Partnership (SEP), originated in 1987 and has served as a model for many biological and health sciences education partnerships that have emerged nationally over the last 5 years. Alberts will talk about the role of scientists in these efforts, current issues on the national science educa-



tion agenda, and the San Francisco SEP project.

The day-long workshop is modeled on a series of similar events hosted at national meetings of scientific professional societies. Participants will have the opportunity to examine the nature of inquiry-based, “hands-on” science curricula; interact with lead teachers, school science supervisors, and scientists who have participated in the development of successful school partnerships; and discuss incentives for, and networking among, scientists involved in elementary and secondary school

science activities. Several nationally known science education partnerships will be featured. Each initiative illustrates how small partnerships between one or a few scientists and a local teacher(s)/school(s) can develop into a system-wide project involving many students, teachers, and whole school districts. Among the scientists who will lead workshop sessions are Dr. James Bower, California Institute of Technology; Dr. Ines Cifuentes, Carnegie Institution of Washington; and Dr. David Scott, University of Rochester Cancer Center. Each workshop participant will receive a resource guide and materials on current national efforts.

“Scientists and the Schools: Partnerships and Possibilities” will be held at The Cloister (Bldg. 60). The keynote talk will be at 9 a.m. and is open to the public. Participation in the workshop (10:30 a.m. to 5 p.m.) is by registration only. Workshop reservations will be accepted until Apr. 26, on a first-come, first-served basis.

To receive a detailed agenda and to register for the workshop, contact Dr. Patricia Hoben, Office of Science Education Policy, Bldg. 31, Rm. 3B19, phone 22469.



Computer Training Classes

Classes	Dates
Mainframe Services at NIH	4/15
C Language Fundamentals	4/19-23
Introduction to WYLBUR	4/19, 21, 23, 26, 28, 30
Networks for the Scientific Community	4/20
Topics in Flow Cytometry	4/20, 27
Gopher	4/22
Windows Application Strategies	4/22
Experimental Data Analysis	4/22, 27, 29, 5/4
Designing Tables and Managing a DB2 Database	4/26-28
Inside Image	4/27
PC←→Mainframe Communication with Kermit	4/29
GCG Sequence Analysis on the Convex	5/4-6
Distributed Database Processing Using Client-Server Technology	5/7
Recurrent Problems in Data Analysis	5/10-12
Analysis of Ligand Binding Data Using the LIGAND Program	5/11

Classes are offered by the DCRT Training Program without charge. Call 62339 for more information. □

Four Named to NIAID Council

Four new appointments have been made to the National Advisory Allergy and Infectious Diseases Council.

The new members are: Dr. Gail H. Cassell, chair of the department of microbiology at the University of Alabama at Birmingham; lawyer Walter T. Searcy III, a consultant from Nashville; Dr. Burton H. Singer, professor and chair of the department of epidemiology and public health at Yale University; and Dr. Edmund C. Tramont, director and dean of the Medical Technology Center at the University of Maryland, Baltimore.

Cassell, in addition to being professor in the department of microbiology, is a professor in the department of comparative medicine. She is also senior scientist in the Cystic Fibrosis Center and Multipurpose Arthritis Center and director of the Mycoplasma Diagnostic Laboratory.

Searcy was a partner in the law firm of Searcy, Smith & Dawson from 1988 to 1991. Most recently, he was an instructor in the department of business administration at Fisk University in Nashville. He has been a consultant for General Electric Broadcasting and Citizens Savings Bank and Trust Co.

Singer is associate dean for public health at Yale University and has held academic positions at Columbia, Princeton and Rockefeller universities.

Tramont has sat on the faculties of George Washington University School of Medicine, Georgetown University School of Medicine and the Uniformed Services University of the Health Sciences. Until 1991, he was associate director of the Walter Reed Army Institute of Research and had responsibility for its retroviral research programs. □



NIAID director Dr. Anthony S. Fauci (l) welcomes new advisory council members (from l) Walter T. Searcy III, Dr. Gail H. Cassell and Dr. Edmund G. Tramont to their first meeting. New council member Dr. Burton H. Singer is not pictured.

24-Hour Shift Program

DES Prepared for Building Emergencies; Snell Sets Smart Example

While most NIH'ers work during the day, many others work varying shifts. These shifts are necessary for around-the-clock maintenance and operation of NIH facilities and the Clinical Center.

The Division of Engineering Services' Maintenance Engineering Branch (MEB) employs a 24-hour shift program to ensure the continued safe operation of all facilities throughout the NIH Bethesda and Poolesville campuses. The maintenance staff on the night shift is adept at responding to and correcting emergency situations that arise in any of the utility systems that serve the buildings or in equipment located within the buildings. Equipment includes such things as freezers, incubators, computers, etc., that are critical to NIH research programs. In order to provide a quick response, each employee must be familiar with the location and layout of every building and knowledgeable in the operation of the mechanical equipment supporting each building.

One Friday evening last spring, MEB's and, in particular, one man, Claude Snell's, skill was put to the test. Snell was working in Bldg. 7 when he was notified to report to Bldg. 4; an electrical power surge had caused a steam regulator to malfunction and high-pressure steam was being discharged throughout the building from the B3 level to the second floor.

When he arrived at Bldg. 4, the fire department and police were waiting for him. Snell knew there were two ways to cut off the steam flow. The first and probably least dangerous option was to enter the building, locate the

valve, and shut it off. However, this choice was made considerably more perilous by the dense steam filling the corridors, impairing visibility. The second option of shutting off the main valve, through a manhole, posed the most danger. (Manholes can be oxygen deficient,



Claude Snell was hero in mishap last year.

contain combustible gases, and reach temperatures of 200 degrees Fahrenheit.)

With firemen and police following him, Snell entered Bldg. 4. They searched for the steam shutoff valve for more than 45 minutes when a loud pop, indicating that another steam valve was discharging additional hot steam, prompted the firemen to sound a retreat. Visibility was reduced to less than a foot and made the exit time extremely long. During the exit, Snell fell, injuring his shoulder. Nevertheless, he proceeded to option two and, along with another

engineer, Kelvin Lawson, entered a manhole and shut off the main steam valve to Bldg. 4.

The team reentered the building, secured the steam valves, and surveyed the damage. They quickly realized that computer areas would require protection from the steam condensate and took action to cover the computers with plastic tarps. Further investigation revealed extensive damage to the controls for heating/ventilation and air conditioning equipment. Snell, Lawson and their supervisor, Joe Bladen, worked until 3 a.m. to rewire equipment and restore the building's operation. The dedication and technical expertise of Snell and his coworkers during this emergency assured the safety of building occupants, who were removed during the incident, and averted the possible loss of years of scientific research by protecting computer equipment.

Snell is quick to recognize his coworkers and credits teamwork as the key to resolving an emergency.

"It certainly proved true when this incident happened," he said. "The fire fighters and policemen joined forces with our team to assure minimum loss to NIH property and research."

Snell was subsequently commended by DES Director Jorge Urrutia, who said, "Because of your expertise and quick reaction, the building's downtime was minimal and damage to the facility was greatly reduced...you performed your duties in the face of danger to yourself." In recognition of his dedication, Snell received the HHS secretary's award for employee of the month. □



Dr. Anne Sassaman, who graduated from Auburn University with a B.S. degree in chemistry in 1965 with highest honors—the outstanding graduate in the School of Chemistry—and recipient of the University President's award, has been honored as a distinguished alumna of the school. She is director of the Division of Extramural Research and Training, NIEHS.

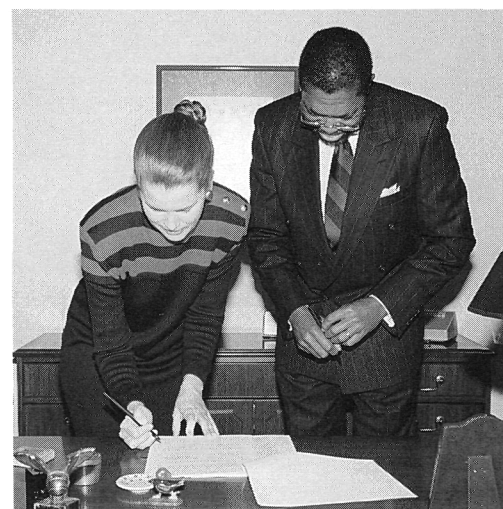
Secretaries Week Marked, Apr. 21

The week of Apr. 19-23 has been designated as National Secretaries Week. In recognition of the dedication, perseverance and many accomplishments support staff has made to the mission of NIH, the advisory committee for women, through the Office of Equal Opportunity, will sponsor an observance on Wednesday, Apr. 21 from noon to 2 p.m. in Wilson Hall, Bldg. 1. The theme is "Above and Beyond Traditions: Support Staff of the Nineties."

Dolores P. Burton, career consultant and president, DP Associates, and Sally A. Nichols, grants management officer, NCI, will be the keynote speakers. Burton will reflect on professional attitudes in the workforce with a special emphasis on professionalism for support staff. Nichols will discuss transitions from support staff positions to other professional positions.

Musician Deanna Bogart will also entertain at the program.

Sign language interpretation will be provided. For more information and reasonable accommodation, call 66301. □



NIEHS director Dr. Kenneth Olden signs a formal interagency agreement with the Food and Drug Administration's National Center for Toxicological Research to conduct toxicity testing on a number of chemicals of interest to both federal components. The agreement is the continuation of a toxicity and carcinogenicity testing partnership that began more than a dozen years ago. Adding her signature is Dr. Jane Henney, deputy commissioner for operations, FDA.

NIH Institute Relay Race Set, May 19 at Bldg. 1

On Wednesday, May 19, the NIH Health's Angels Running Club will hold the 16th Annual NIH Institute Relay. The event will begin promptly at noon in front of Bldg. 1. A traditional rite of spring at NIH, the relay is a competition between 5-member teams; each member runs a half-mile loop around Bldg. 1.

Public Health Service employees at the Parklawn Bldg. are also invited to participate in this year's event. As usual, the relay will include competition in five divisions: open (runners 39 years old and under), master (runners over 40 years old), all male, all female and mixed (teams with at least two female runners). The Allen Lewis NIH Memorial Trophy will be inscribed with the names of the winning teams in each division. Additionally, all runners participating in, and volunteers helping with, the event will receive festive commemorative ribbons. All runners, volunteers, and their friends and families are invited to attend a post-race party at the FAES house located on Old Georgetown Rd. at the corner of Cedar Ln. beginning around 4:30 p.m.

Each team will pay a \$5 entry fee that will be used to help defray the cost of the event. Entry forms and instructions are available at the NIH R&W Activities Desk in Bldg. 31, Rm. B1W30, and at the R&W in Parklawn Bldg., Rm. 509.

Teams must return their completed entry forms to the NIH R&W Activities Desk by 4 p.m., Friday, May 14. Packets for each team will be made available for pick-up on May 18.

Because of logistical constraints, only 80 teams will be allowed to enter. Teams are encouraged to return their entry forms promptly.

Event coordinator Dr. Peter Pentchev reminds everyone that the relay is intended to "promote friendly and constructive competition." Even the most novice of runners and joggers are encouraged to share in the annual event.

For more information, or to volunteer to help, call Jerry Moore, 64606, or Pentchev, 63285. □

Musculoskeletal Conditions Discussed

Dr. Mary A. Cummings, a health science administrator at the Agency for Health Care Policy and Research, will discuss "Medical Effectiveness Research and Clinical Practice Guidelines Related to Musculoskeletal Conditions" on Thursday, Apr. 22 from 1:30 to 4 p.m. The meeting, sponsored by the arthritis and musculoskeletal diseases interagency coordinating committee, will be held in Bldg. 31, Conf. Rm. 7. For more information call Sharon Nouzari-Louis, 60801. □

Day Care Center Has Openings

The infant/toddler center run in Bldg. T-46 by ChildKind Inc. has spaces available for 18-month to 2 year olds. A subsidy program is available. For more information call Lee, 68357. □



NCNR director Dr. Ada Sue Hinshaw was the latest and fifth NIH institute director to present a seminar and discuss programs of mutual interest with NIEHS leaders. NIEHS and NCNR have been working together with other federal agencies with an interest in nurse training and environmental health to explore ways of developing and implementing curriculum activities in environmental health.

Higgins Joins Association Board

Kate Higgins, resident manager of the Children's Inn at NIH, has joined the board of directors of the National Association of Hospital Hospitality Houses, Inc.

The association's mission is to promote and assist not-for-profit programs that provide lodging and supportive services in a caring environment for families receiving medical care away from home.

At the Children's Inn, Higgins has a pivotal role in welcoming families, helping them get settled in, planning their activities and resolving any problems that may arise. Her community service credentials include serving on the human relations commission of Montgomery County and volunteering for the National League of Women Voters. □

NINDS Adds Council Members

Three new members have been named to the National Advisory Neurological Disorders and Stroke Council.

Appointed to 4-year terms, they include: Dr. Robert G. Grossman, professor and chairman, department of neurosurgery, Baylor College of Medicine; Dr. Alan K. Percy, professor and director, division of pediatric neurology, University of Alabama at Birmingham; Dr. Nicholas C. Spitzer, professor of biology, University of California at San Diego.

Grossman is an expert on head injury and has authored numerous scientific articles and key medical texts on the subject.

Percy specializes in inherited degenerative diseases, Rett syndrome, and neonatal neurology.

Spitzer's research interests focus on how charged atoms affect the development and function of nerve cells. □



Twelve employees from NIEHS spent a recent Saturday morning picking up trash along the institute's Adopt-A-Highway section of road just north of Research Triangle Park, N.C. The group pitched in to clean up 2 miles of cans, bottles, and paper thrown out of passing vehicles. Coordinated by the NIEHS environmental awareness advisory committee, the effort resulted in 55 bags of trash. Volunteers included (from l) John Schelp, Beth Anderson, Dottie Kennedy, Jayne Boyer, Diane Galanides, JJ (the dog), Arnetta Wicker, Jennifer Anderson, Sandy Forrester, Laurie Johnson, Janis Mullaney, and Peggy McKinney. Photo: Jerry Phelps



TRAINING TIPS

The NIH Training Center of the Division of Personnel Management offers the following:

<i>Courses and Programs</i>	<i>Starting Dates</i>
<i>Management and Supervisory</i>	<i>66371</i>
Working With Personal Differences:	
MBTI-I for Professional and Managerial	5/11
Creative Problem Solving	5/25
Scientific and Medical Editing	5/20
Managing Workforce Diversity: Skills	
Utilizing Difference	5/20
Attitudes—How They Affect Productivity	
in the Work Environment	5/25
<i>Office Operations and Administrative Systems Training</i>	<i>66211</i>
Developing Proofreading Techniques	4/26
Time Management for Office Support Personnel	5/11
Working With Personnel Differences:	
MBTI-I for Technical and Support Staff	5/17
Writing Fundamentals I	5/24
<i>Personnel Management</i>	<i>66211</i>
Advanced Classification	5/20
Processing Employee Benefits: Personnel Actions	5/20
KSA Methodology	5/19
KSA Methodology Overview	5/7
Adverse & Conduct Based Actions	4/19
Performance Based Actions	4/27
IMPACT For Personnel Staff	5/11
<i>Special Courses</i>	<i>66211</i>
Project Leadership Workshop	4/20
Break the Smoking Habit	5/13
Mid-Career Financial Planning	5/21
Retirement Planning Seminar	5/12

Noise Study Recruits Adults

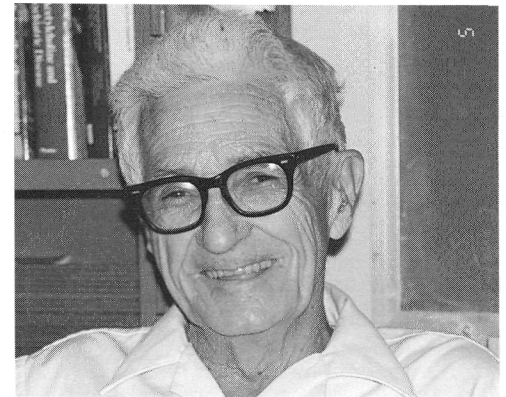
Healthy normal hearing adults ages 18-30 are needed for a study of susceptibility to temporary effects of noise. Seven 1-2 hour sessions are required, with a total payment of \$250. For information, call Dr. Larry Shotland, 65368. □

Retired Social Worker Walter Sceery Mourned

Family and friends gathered at Our Lady of Mercy Church recently to celebrate the life of consummate Irishman and storyteller Dr. Walter Sceery, who died on St. Patrick's Day (Mar. 17) after a herculean battle with cancer. Sceery, 73, joined the staff of NIH in 1956. A psychiatric social worker and an attorney, he retired as a captain in the Public Health Service in 1987. He continued collaborating on several research projects after his official retirement.

Sceery, who lived in Potomac, served in the Army Air Forces as a cryptographer during World War II. He moved to Washington in 1948 after graduating from the University of Connecticut. He received a master's degree in social work from Catholic University and served on the faculty there while studying law at Georgetown University School of Law. Sceery received his LL.B. and J.D. degrees and practiced law in Washington, D.C., and Maryland. He also served as director of home services for the American Red Cross.

As a researcher at NIH, Sceery worked on a range of projects involving 2,500 newlywed couples, manic-depressive patients, children



Dr. Walter Sceery

with hyperactivity, people with anorexia nervosa and obsessive compulsive disorder. With all projects he provided psychotherapy for individuals and families. He also counseled NIH employees with alcohol, drug, mental health and legal problems. He contributed extensively to the professional literature.

Sceery is survived by his wife of 50 years, Beverly Davis Sceery, five children and twelve grandchildren.—Linda Nee

New Services Open at Executive Plaza South Building

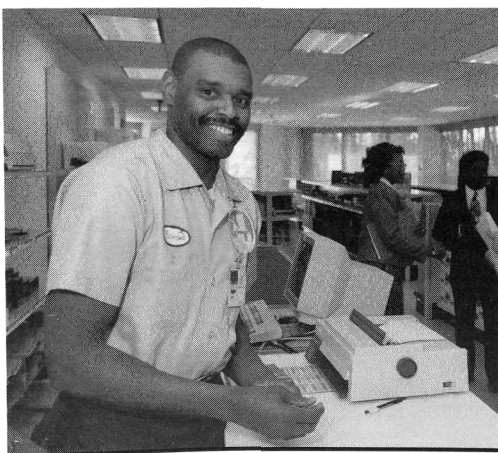


Above:

On hand for a ribbon-cutting ceremony that opened the R&W store, Ober Travel Agency branch and full-service NIH Self Service Store on the first floor of Executive Plaza South recently were (from l) Dr. Helen Gift, R&W president; Karen Kolle Pickett, Ober general manager; Randy Schools, R&W general manager; Stephen Ficca, NIH associate director for research services; James Baker, chief, Supply Branch; Thomas Miller, acting director, Division of Logistics; and Paul Horton, director, Division of Space and Facility Management. A reception for visitors followed the ceremony.

Left:

Vernon L. Bundick of the Division of Logistics mans a register at the newly opened Executive Plaza Self Service Store.



Judith Vaitukaitis Appointed New NCRR Director

Dr. Judith Vaitukaitis has been appointed director of the National Center for Research Resources. She replaces Dr. Robert Whitney, who resigned in September 1992 to accept a position as deputy surgeon general.

"Scientific discoveries that improve human health require environments in which research can thrive," Vaitukaitis said. "One of my first priorities as director is to develop a planning process that will allow NCRR to respond to changing resource needs and scientific opportunities, strengthen our partnership with NIH's many institutes and centers, and provide NCRR's diverse components with a collective vision for the future."

Vaitukaitis is a reproductive neuroendocrinologist whose career combines managerial and scientific expertise. She served as acting director of NCRR since September 1992, and as deputy director for extramural research resources since 1991. Prior to that, Vaitukaitis directed NCRR's General Clinical Research Centers Program, which oversees a nationwide network of 72 centers in major teaching hospitals in which physicians conduct research on human health.

As a scientist, Vaitukaitis has made significant contributions to the development of radioassay methodology, including the development of the first specific pregnancy assay. For these achievements, she received the Clinical Radioassay Society's 1980 Mallinckrodt Award for Investigative Research. The pregnancy test Vaitukaitis developed continues to be used. It has evolved into over-the-counter products for early pregnancy detection and for monitoring patients with tumors developed from placental tissue.

Before coming to NCRR, Vaitukaitis served from 1974 to 1983 as professor of medicine at Boston University School of Medicine, including 6 years as professor of physiology. In addition to teaching, she conducted extensive basic research into the mechanisms controlling hormonal action and metabolism at the cellular level, and clinical research in reproductive endocrinology. Vaitukaitis' clinical studies were conducted in Boston University's General Clinical Research Center, where she served as codirector from 1975 to 1977, and director from 1977 to 1986. During the early 1970's, she spent several years in research in the intramural laboratories of NICHD and NCI.

A native of Hartford, Conn., Vaitukaitis earned a B.S. degree in chemistry and biology from Tufts University in 1962. She received an M.D. degree from Boston University School of Medicine in 1966, and later received its Distinguished Alumna Award. She completed her residency at Cornell Medical Services, Bellevue and Memorial Hospitals, New York.

Vaitukaitis has authored or coauthored nearly 225 scientific articles, abstracts or book



Dr. Judith Vaitukaitis

chapters. In 1982, she wrote a book, *Clinical Reproductive Neuroendocrinology*. She has been elected to the American Society for Clinical Investigation, the Society for Experimental Biology and Medicine, and the Association of American Physicians. □

Cell Cycle Regulation To Be Subject of Mini-Symposium

A one-day mini-symposium on cell cycle regulation will be held at Hood College in Frederick, Md., on Friday, May 28, sponsored by NCI and the Foundation for Advanced Cancer Studies Inc.

Participants include: Steven Reed, Scripps Clinic, "G1 Control in Yeast and Animal Cells"; Robert Weinberg, Whitehead Institute, "The Rb Protein and the Regulation of G1 Progression"; Steven Osmani, Geisinger Clinic, "Cell Cycle Analysis Using *Aspergillus nidulans* as a Model System"; David Glover, University of Dundee, "Phosphorylation Cycles in the Cell Cycle of the Life Cycle of *Drosophila*"; Andrew Murray, UCSF, "How Cells Know When to Leave Mitosis"; and Nicholas Tonks, Cold Spring Harbor Laboratory, "Protein Tyrosine Dephosphorylation in Cellular Signalling."

Fee for attendance is \$35, which includes lunch and refreshments. Deadline for registration is May 14. For more information call (410) 658-2882. □

NIH Asian Cultural Day Set, Apr. 30

NIH families, patients and the general public are invited to the 21st annual NIH Asian/Pacific American Heritage celebration on Apr. 30. There will be a lunchtime program of food and demonstrations and an evening program of Asian music and dance. The theme for the celebration this year is "The Grace and Strength of Asian Women."

Festivities begin at 11:30 a.m. with demonstrations of the Japanese tea ceremony, bonsai exhibits, Asian calligraphy and Asian music. Luncheon sales will include food from China, India, Japan, Korea, Thailand, and the Philippines. The lunchtime activities will take place between 11:30 a.m. and 1:30 p.m. on the patio of Bldg. 31A. A percentage of the proceeds will be donated to the Children's Inn at NIH.

The evening program will take place in Masur Auditorium, Bldg. 10. A prelude program at 7:15 p.m. will feature the Tai Yim Kung Fu School in the Chinese Lion Dance, which brings good luck and offers protection from all evil. The main program of Asian music and dance will run from 7:30 to 9:30 p.m. The Cambodian (Khmer) Classical Arts Association will perform the Tep Monoram, a dance depicting celestial dancers in a garden setting. Kamal Music Makers of Washington and the newly formed Indian Folk Dance Group will present Indian and Pakistan folk songs and dances. As a part of a program of Vietnamese folk songs and dances, Kim Oanh Nguyen will play the dan Tranh, a 16-string zither, which is a cousin of the Japanese koto and of the Chinese ch'in. Renowned Chinese storyteller Linda Fang will narrate the spellbinding tale of the Chi Ling Purse.

A reception in the NIH Visitor Information Center will follow the program. Everyone is invited to the reception to meet the artists and to feast on Asian pastries and snacks.

The program is sponsored by the NIH Asian/Pacific American cultural committee and the Asian Islander American advisory committee, Office of Equal Opportunity. Sign language interpretation will be provided. For information or to obtain accommodations for individuals with disabilities, contact Joan Brogan, NIH Asian Program manager, 62906. □

Library Subscriptions Cancelled, Little-Used Space Stealers Scrubbed

The NIH Library in Bldg. 10 is cancelling subscriptions to 17 little-used titles from its abstracts and index (A & I) collection, as well as removing 55 older A & I volumes to make room for more heavily used publications.

NIH staff will no longer have library access to the 55 discarded volumes in the collection; however, the library will keep back issues of the 17 cancelled titles.

This downsizing is an effort to control the library's space and journal budget in 1994. Future cancellations are possible, but NIH employees will be notified beforehand and given the opportunity to make comments and suggestions.

Lists of the cancelled titles and withdrawn volumes are available through Elsie Cerutti, Reference and Bibliographic Services chief, 61156.